

Ottawa Jewish Bulletin

Published By

THE OTTAWA JEWISH COMMUNITY COUNCIL

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AGREE ABOUT RABBI

A special meeting of the Executive Boards of Ottawa Synagogues was held recently to discuss the method of seeking a successor to the position that Rabbi Fasman gives up on May 1st. After a lengthy discussion it was agreed that a Rabbi should be sought who has a thorough modern secular education, who will take a deep interest in the activities of young people, and whose religious education includes the traditional Semicha.

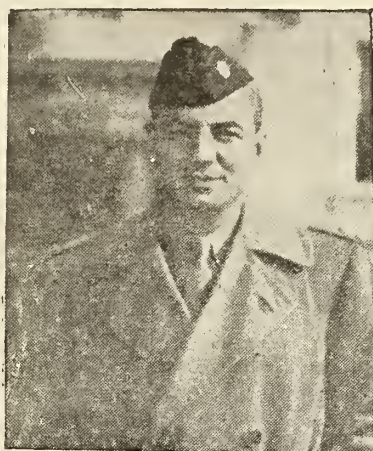
The meeting then requested that Rabbi Fasman write to the two largest orthodox Rabbinical Seminaries in America, the Yeshivah College in New York, and the Hebrew Theological College in Chicago, asking them to recommend an individual or individuals who would be capable of assuming spiritual leadership in Ottawa. It was also decided to address a letter to the Jewish Welfare Board in New York City, asking for a list of chaplains leaving chaplaincy service who would be interested in and would be suitable for the Ottawa position.

Note: At the time of going to press Rabbi Fasman has been advised by both Chicago and New York that the placement committees in the respective institutions are weighing the situation carefully with a view to making the proper recommendation, while the Jewish Welfare Board has written to him that it is unable itself to be directly of help in the matter, but that it will refer the Ottawa letter to the different Rabbinical associations in America for their consideration.

Sabbath Candles

March 15th	5.49 P.M.
" 22nd	5.58 "
" 29th	6.08 "
April 5th	6.17 "
" 12th	6.26 "

Direct Message From Overseas



MAJOR ALFRED FLEISHMAN

Ottawa Jews will have the unique chance to hear a report about the conditions of Jewish life in Europe today from a man who has just spent many months in the lands where Jewish suffering was greatest.

On Thursday night, at 6.30 p.m. in the Talmud Torah Hall, the annual J.D.C. campaign dinner will be held, and Major Alfred Fleishman, will deliver the principal address. The guest speaker has just returned from interviewing thousands of survivors in the D. P. (Displaced Persons) camps of Austria and Germany. It is not expected that what he has to report will make a pleasant tale, but those who seek to know the truth and the inside story will be grateful to get them from a thoroughly qualified observer.

Major Fleishman had a brilliant record in the United States Air Force during the war, winning the Legion of Merit for "exceptionally meritorious performance of outstanding services. In St. Louis, his home, he has been an active Zionist leader and the president of a large B'nai B'rith Lodge. The Junior Chamber of Commerce in the United States recently awarded him a Distinguished Service Medal, and the Veterans of Foreign Wars have honoured him by the award of their special Citizenship Medal.

Mr. Gordon Caplan, Chairman of the campaign, urges that reservations be made immediately with the banquet chairman, Mr. I. Stone, because the seating capacity of the hall is limited.

PRESIDENT TRUMAN APPEALS

In an exceptional crisis the President of the United States has issued an exceptional statement. Some days ago an extraordinary conference was held in Washington, D.C., to open the American campaign for \$100,000,000 to rescue those Jews who survived the terrors of Hitlerism in Europe. The magnitude of the appeal and the urgency to subscribe the entire quota have so stirred the conscience of America that President Truman has publicly called upon the citizens of the United States, regardless of creed, to contribute generously towards the cause.

The amounts pledged at the conference have had no parallel in the former history of American charity. In rapid succession three representatives of outstanding American Jewish families announced gifts of one million, one-half million, and one-quarter million dollars respectively.

In Ottawa the same appeal reaches through two agencies, the U. P. A. and the J. D. C. It is the latter which is launching its campaign next Thursday evening, March 14. Will Ottawa Jews respond in accordance with the dire need?

Purim In Ottawa

This year the holiday of Purim occurs Saturday night March 16th and Sunday March 17. Because no fast is held on Shabbos (except Yom Kippur) the Fast of Esther will be observed on Thursday March 14th. The reading of the Megillah will take place in the Ottawa Synagogues on Saturday night March 16th about 6.30 p.m., and again on Sunday morning 9.00 a.m.

The exchange of gifts (Shalach Manoth) is generally observed during the day, while the Purim Seudah should be served in the late afternoon. The laws of Purim stress especially the provision for the needs of the poor.

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THE OTTAWA JEWISH COMMUNITY COUNCIL
Oscar Z. Fasman, Rabbi

Thomas Sachs,	President.
L. Freiman,	Vice-President.
S. Caplan,	Vice-President.
S. Saslove,	Treasurer.
B. Pearl	Hon. Secretary.
Joseph Ages,	Executive Secretary.

War-time Prices and Trade Board Exemption Certificate
No. 66, dated Feb. 9, 1943.

THE RECONVERSION OF PURIM

Throughout the war Purim was a holiday of anticipation. Every time it came we expressed the hope that the fate of Haman would swiftly overtake Hitler. In the earlier years it sounded like wishful thinking; towards the end the chance of realization seemed much closer. Until the actual surrender of Germany, however, we knew not the nature of the final victory, and we continued to dream of the Fuehrer's end. This year we have the reality. The only thing missing is the exact date. Even in his fall the enemy cheated us of the occasion to draw a ring around the right day on the right month.

Be that as it may, we must interpret Purim this time in the light of reconversion. What message does it bring after the cessation of hostilities? The Rabbis have preserved for us the tradition that in the days of Mordecai and Esther the Jewish people, profoundly impressed with the miraculous manner in which they were rescued, affirmed with new zeal their acceptance of the Torah. In the more peaceful world opened to them they were swept towards the intensification of their religious duties.

If the attempt to destroy Israel depends upon the casting of lots, upon some accident of fortune, the will to Jewish survival rests upon the certainty of a faith and the inevitability of divine intervention. By the same token our people can selfcondemn itself to extinction by abandoning that certainty and refusing to bow to that inevitability. The moment Jews put their trust in the whims of circumstance, they are playing the game of the Agagite, who did not ask of the turning wheel whether to wipe out the folk of Judah, only when. In short, our foes would make us relative in respect to time, while our immortality down the centuries has made time relative in respect to us. Woe to any philosophy of Judaism that disregards this phenomenon!

It is an easy thing to submerge oneself so completely in the work of saving Jews in Europe that one considers his personal spiritual salvation of no consequence. Many people in our part of the world are using their devotion to those in distress on the other side as compensation for the indifference in their own lives to the Torah tradition. It is almost as though a man would rush to the side of his neighbour to help extinguish the fire next door, and he would kick over a burning candle in his own house as he left it. Who knows if the Megillah did not caution us against such an error, when instructing us to give presents to the poor and gifts to our friends, while reporting at the

same time that the Torah was once more accepted? An intimate study of Jewish social achievement, contrary to the superficial observation that passes for an accurate appraisal, will show that those who have remained steadfast in their religious responsibilities have had a wider appreciation of the claim in Hebrew fellowship.

Peace has come back to the world—implied in that term is normalcy. (It would be a sad reflection on human intelligence were we to return to the fascist theory that war is the normal.) Any approach to normal living for the Jew involves religious living. As we go to celebrate Purim, 5706, let us warn the enemies of our people who would toy with the drawing of lots that our eternity is not hitched to chance, and let us guard well the foundation of our invincibility—our Torah.

THE WORLD AND THE JEW

The world is a very big place. In its total picture the Jew is a very small figure. Common sense would dictate that the big world should easily find a place for the little Jew.

But is this happening? Is not the Jew still suspended in mid air? There are plenty of countries that would applaud his departure from them. At best, they grant that if his total is cut down to an infinitesimal proportion, they will be able to tolerate his presence. At the other end, one seeks in vain for a country that really wants him. He is an object of pity, and it is admitted that somebody ought to do something in his behalf, but always somebody else. There are doctors and they write prescriptions, only they are ordering the cure to be provided by people not in their office.

The Jew cannot rest satisfied with such consideration. He must breathe and live now, not in some distant Utopia. He will not seat himself on a rocket and fly off to planets unknown. He knows that the world in some portion belongs to him as much as to the next man. He has not done the world any great injustice—certainly much less than it has done him—and his sense of fairness supports his desire to survive here and today.

Once, in a gesture of righteousness, the world promised him a chance. A generation ago he was advised that the nations of the earth agreed to the establishment of a Jewish home in Palestine. Untrained in the wiles and guiles of diplomacy, he took the world at its word and thanked the nations for their goodness. He not only spoke words of gratitude; he made them concrete. By the sweat of his brow and the blood of his martyred pioneers he built a new civilization, transformed a desert, brought culture to a wilderness, and held safe for democracy a vital bastion. He taught his children to labour, his intellectual aristocracy to till soil and break rocks, his abstract thinkers to drain swamps, so that they were people of earthy instinct and warrior might when brutal totalitarianism threatened the lifeline of a free empire.

In the end the world won, the world-enemy was struck down. Surely, the Jew thought, the moment has arrived for me to develop at an even faster pace my portion. The remnants who wish it will come there. The land will blossom as never before. Liberty will prosper, and the world will have even greater occasion to admire the achievements of its sometimes forgotten people. But what happened? The world sent a Commission—of Inquiry!

NAME J. D. C. COMMITTEE

To lead the 1946 J.D.C. campaign, whose objective has been raised to twice "Chai" thousand dollars, an executive committee has been selected, consisting of:

Hon. Chairman: Jacob Freedman, J. H. Vineberg.

Hon. Vice Chairmen: Alex Betcherman, Harold P. Coplan, Rabbi O. Z. Fasman, Lawrence Freiman, Moses Loeb.

Chairman: Gordon Caplan.

Vice Chairmen: Louis Baker, A. Dworkin, Harold Shenkman, Solomon Zelikovitz, Morris Zagerman.

Treasurer: Abraham Shaffer.

Secretary: Harold N. Pearl.

Captains of Captains: Isadore Stone, Jess Abelson, Morris Goldberg, L. S. Greenberg, Samuel Lepofsky, K. C., Saul Saslove, David Zelikovitz.

M. Lachovitz, Hon. Gabbai

The annual meeting of the Machzikei Hadath Chevra Mishnayeth resulted in the following elections by acclamation—Hon. Gabbai: M. Lachovitz; Gabbai Rishon: J. Saslove; Gabbai Sheni: H. Woodrow; Treasurer: I. Nadler; Secretary: L. Gunner.

Following the meeting a banquet was held attended by a large gathering of the membership.

To Help Schoolmat s

As part of a Dominion-wide attempt to encourage Hebrew School children to help provide books for Jewish children in European schools, the Ottawa Talmud Torah pupils formed several committees to sell stamps for this special purpose. The teams that distinguished themselves are:

Eli Rabin and Anita Steinberg.
Rachelle Schapira and Helena Pleet.
Lily Pollock and Sheila Ballon.
Dorothy Arron and Sorrell Rubin.

Rabbi O. Z. Fasman will be out of the city March 18-21. (He was in Toronto one day last week on an important mission pertaining to Passover Matzoth.)

Montreal Speaker March 28th

Mr. Nathan Shuster, the acting Director of the Jewish National Fund for Canada, will be the guest of the Ottawa J. N. F. Council at a special meeting to be held in the Talmud Torah Hall Thursday night, March 28th, 8.30 p.m. Mr. Shuster is one of the youngest men to hold a high executive position with the Zionist Organization of Canada, having come up through the ranks by way of Young Judea and having received his training under the capable guidance of the veteran Rev. J. K. Goldbloom.

A recent Palestinian talking picture, "Land of Hope" will be shown during the evening. Mr. L. S. Greenberg, Chairman of the local J. N. F. Council, will preside.

Young people are especially urged to attend in order to familiarize themselves with the achievements and aims of the J. N. F. in Eretz Israel.

M. APPEL CHOSEN GABBAI

The annual meeting of the Cong. Adath Jeshurun Chevra Mishnayeth, held in the Synagogue on Feb. 17th, elected Mr. M. Appel as Gabbai Rishon. To serve with him are M. Glatt, Gabbai Sheni, and J. Golden, Gabbai Shelishi. The treasurer is M. Lif, and the secretary M. Goldsmith.

A WORD OF COMMON SENSE

In greeting the great moment when land has been purchased to build the beautiful Synagogue and Community Centre all of us eagerly await, Rabbi O. Z. Fasman wishes to say a word of common sense.

"The project is vast. It requires the undivided interest and support of every Jew in Ottawa. It calls for the enlistment of our total energies.

"To agitate now for a separate building of any kind is to do untold harm. To talk today of starting something for a limited group interferes with the progress of the Community Centre. Old People's Homes, Zionist Houses, Clubs—these must wait.

"I hope that enthusiasts with a pet project of their own will desist for the next two years, in order to give the Synagogue-Centre a clear road on which to drive forward."

Servicemen's Club

At a large meeting of Jewish veterans held in Talmud Torah Hall on February 4th, 1946, it was decided to encourage all Jewish veterans in Ottawa to join one of the existing branches of the Canadian Legion in the city rather than to form a separate Jewish branch. At the same time the gathering voted to continue to meet as a social club of ex-servicemen, and Harold Rubin D.F.C. was chosen as President.

TO BURN MORTGAGE

Cong. Agudath Israel, the West End Synagogue, will hold a gala Purim dinner in its hall Sunday March 17th at 6.30 p.m. for its own membership. Of special interest to the gathering will be the burning of the mortgage.

A tablet in honour of the fifteen charter members, two of whom are now deceased, will be unveiled.

Rabbi O. Z. Fasman will deliver the main address of the evening.

TALMUD TORAH PURIM PROGRAM

The children of the Talmud Torah (Main Branch and James St. Branch) will celebrate their annual Purim party on Monday, March 18th, in the Talmud Torah Hall. The Haman-taschen refreshments are being arranged by Mr. M. Held.

In the West End the children will have their annual Purim program at 11.00 a.m., Sunday, March 17th.

The Ottawa Hebrew Sunday School will present its annual Purim program in the Talmud Torah Hall, Sunday, March 17th, at 2.30 p.m. The occasion will be marked by the presentation of a playlet written by the acting superintendent Miss Bessie Cardash.

FAVOURABLE IMPRESSION

Parents and friends of the Ottawa Talmud Torah were deeply impressed by the charming Hebrew program presented in the Talmud Torah Hall on Sunday morning, March 4th, when thirty-six boys and girls celebrated the beginning of their Chumash studies. The stage setting, the songs, the recitations and the translation all revealed the devoted work of the teaching staff and the promising material in the children themselves.

MAZEL TOV, OTTAWA JEWRY!

The Synagogue-Community Centre has a site. The co-chairmen of this great project, Messrs. B. M. Alexandor, Alex. Betcherman and M. Zagerman, are pleased to advise the community that they have successfully carried out the instructions of the December meeting contributors to purchase the land on the north-east corner of Rideau and Chapel Streets. The deal was complicated by the fact that four different owners of parcels had to agree to sell, and the consummation was reached on February 28th, after more than two months of meeting with the owners.

The land is big enough for the realization of the entire program, with a frontage of 200 ft. on Rideau St., and 332 ft. on Chapel St. Upon this ground we shall be able to build what is required for the religious, educational, cultural, athletic and social activities of the Ottawa Jewish Community.

We therefore say Mazel Tov to the men and women and YOUTH of Ottawa Jewry.

Meanwhile, of course, the payment of pledges is kept up with admirable regularity. It is suggested at this time that people who have not yet made any pledge to the cause, or who realize that their contribution can and should be increased, ought to contact Mr. I. Stone, chairman of the finance committee at once. Also families that have in mind a perpetual memorial for a dear one should discuss their idea with one of the co-chairmen.

Remember, we are building something that will be permanently useful, and it will add to the beauty of the Dominion capital.

We are on our way. Let us concentrate on finishing the all-important job.

ABOUT TOWN

Sqdn. Leader Jacob Eisen, whose work as senior R.C.A.F. Jewish chaplain made him widely known in our community, especially because of his contracts with our servicemen, has left for New York, thence to proceed to Europe as a representative of the J.D.C.—In an organizational way it looks as though our B'nai Brith young veteran, Mac Abrams will have the unique honour of acting as the installing officer for the B'nai Brith Lodge in London, England next May.

The death of Mrs. Molly Steinman has deprived the Chevra Kadisha Women of their chairman and of a most devoted worker—The boys of the Gemarra class in the Talmud Torah are picking up a knowledge of Yiddish as they go along—Leo Heaps, M.M., whose adventures at Arnhem were widely publicized during the war, has now written a book about his experiences called, "Escape from Arnhem."

Your Rabbi Said

When Moses found his people worshipping the Golden Calf, he broke the Tablets of the Law he was carrying; for Moses knew it is folly to preserve the symbol of a principle, where the principle itself is violated....It is something for us to remember constantly, that the Rabbis explained the omission of Hallel, the psalms of praise, on Purim, because the miracle of this festival did not occur in the Holy Land....The Hebrew phrase that is translated into English as "consecrate" means literally "to fill the hand", thereby impressing upon us that only through consecration can man escape the fate of going through life empty-handed....In the realm of the spirit whatever lacks warmth must perish....In view of the treatment accorded Jews by their oppressors, the miracle is not that we have survived, but that so much of our better spirit has endured. . .

VAAD HA'IR MAILING LIST

Mr. Joseph Ages, Secretary of the Vaad Ha'ir, is in charge of the mailing list which is used to send out the Bulletin and all other literature of a public nature that is meant for the entire Jewish community. If you are not receiving these things regularly, phone him at his office 3-5651.

There are a number of old copies of the Bulletin of several years past in the Vaad Ha'ir office that will be mailed upon request.

On The Parcels Front

Mrs. M. Roberts, chairman of the Vaad Ha'ir committee for sending parcels to Europe, is working tirelessly at the task of sending both food and clothing to the needy Jews overseas, and she is receiving aid from numerous sources. Both Smith Falls and Pembroke have sent shipments of clothing here, and recently the Lucky Thirteen club contributed \$25.00 to help defray mailing costs—Captain I. B. Rose has informed our community, as well as others, that for months to come, and possibly longer, the parcels are of the utmost importance to supplement the relief work of the large Jewish agencies now functioning on the other side.

SIYUM RAISES LARGE SUM

The Siyum of the Sefer Torah given to Cong. Adath Jeshurun by Mr. and Mrs. H. Greenblatt (in gratitude for the safe return from overseas of their son Joseph) brought a large sum of money for the relief of distressed Jews in Europe. Held on February 24th in the synagogue, the occasion was attended by an enthusiastic group of relatives and friends, whose purchase of the holy letters brought \$850.00 to be divided equally between the J.D.C. and the Vaad Hahatzala.

The ceremony was conducted by Rabbi O. Z. Fasman, Rev. J. Rabin, and the veteran Sofer M. Held.

HONOURS ACCUMULATE

Those who are keeping a careful record of the honours won by Ottawa men during this last war will be proud to include the names of Captain J. Greenblatt, son of Mr. and Mrs. H. Greenblatt, and Sgt. J. Pleet, son of Mr. and Mrs. A. D. Pleet, both of whom have been awarded the official decoration Mention in Despatches.

SISTERHOOD BOOK REVIEW

One of the outstanding psychological novels of this year, "Wasteland", written by Jo Sinclair, will be reviewed at the regular March meeting of the Adath Jeshurun sisterhood by Rabbi O. Z. Fasman. The meeting will be held in the vestry rooms of the Synagogue Wed. March 13th, at 3.00 p.m.

CHILDREN VIE FOR GORAL TICKETS

The boys and girls of the Ottawa Talmud Torah are competing energetically against one another to win the greatest number of tickets in a Goral that can bring them all kinds of cherished prizes. The tickets are being awarded for time the children devote to their prayers and religious duties at home and in the Synagogue. The drawing will be held two weeks before Pesach, and many parents have gladly noticed that their children are taking a greater interest than ever before in their Siddur.